

### III. REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 1-4, 6, 7, 11-13 and 15-19 have been amended. Applicants do not acquiesce in the correctness of the rejections and reserve the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed. Further, Applicants reserve the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-7, 11, 12 and 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Arai (U.S. Patent No. 5,966,346), hereafter "Arai" in view of Guyett *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,147,935), hereafter "Guyett." Claims 8, 9, 13, 14, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Arai in view of Guyett and further in view of Thorgersen *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,524,101).

#### A. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-7, 11, 12 AND 15-18 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) OVER ARAI IN VIEW OF GUYETT

With regard to the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection over Arai in view of Guyett, Applicants assert that the combined references cited by the Office do not teach each and every feature of the claimed invention. For example, with respect to independent claims 1, 11 and 15, Applicants respectfully submit that the combined references fail to teach or suggest, *inter alia*, deactivating a first user designated alarm signal and automatically activating a second user designated alarm signal after a predetermined time. Instead, Arai teaches a rotary bezel that "...sets a time interval from the time when the sounding of a first alarm "A" ends to the time when the sounding of a second alarm "B" starts." Col. 2, lines 39-41. However, neither the first alarm A nor the second

alarm B are user designated. To resolve this deficiency, the Office attempts to combine Arai with the alarm clock in Guyett. However, Guyett teaches a single switch member connected to the sound circuitry for people who prefer to be awakened by music rather than a buzzer or other generated noise. Col. 7, line 65 through col. 8, line 4. However, once the single switch member in Guyett is switched, the alarm type is the same every time the alarm sounds. Thus, even if the cited references were combined, the single switch member in Guyett could not be used to designate both alarm A and alarm B in Arai. In contrast, the claimed invention includes "...deactivating a first user designated alarm signal and automatically activating a second user designated alarm signal after a predetermined time." Claim 1. As such, the first user designated alarm signal and second user designated alarm signal as included in the claimed invention are not merely set from the factory as in Arai and are not both simply switched to the same setting with a single switch member as in Guyett, but instead a first user designated alarm signal is deactivated and a second user designated alarm signal is automatically activated after a predetermined time. For the above stated reasons, the combined references are not equivalent to the above referenced feature as included in the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Office withdraw the rejection.

With further respect to independent claim 11 and with respect to claims 3 and 15, Applicants respectfully submit that, contrary to the assertion of the Office, Arai fails to teach or suggest allowing a user to designate distinct volume levels for successive alarm signals. Instead, Arai teaches that alarm "B" is sounded in the form of a buzzer sound larger than the melody sound in alarm "A." Col. 2, lines 54-56. However, nowhere does Arai teach or suggest that a user is allowed to designate distinct volume levels for either alarm "A" or alarm "B." The

claimed invention, in contrast, includes "...allowing a user to designate distinct volume levels for successive alarm signals." Claim 11. As such, volume levels for the successive alarm signals as included in the claimed invention are not merely a buzzer that is larger than a previous melody as in Arai, but instead a uscr is allowed to designate distinct volume levels for successive alarm signals. Thus, the user designated distinct volume levels as included in the claimed invention are not equivalent to alarm "A" and alarm "B" in Arai. Guyett does not cure this deficiency.

Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

With respect to claim 2, Applicants respectfully submit that the combined references fail to teach or suggest that each successive activation of the snooze mechanism results in a new user designated alarm signal. Instead, as stated above, Guyett teaches a switch member for switching the same alarm every time the alarm sounds. Col. 7, line 65 through col. 8 line 4. Similarly, Arai teaches the sounding of a first alarm "A" and a second alarm "B." Col. 2, lines 39-41. However, Arai teaches only that the first alarm "A" may be a melody and that the second alarm "B" may be a buzzer. Col. 2, lines 50-56. Nowhere does Arai teach that alarms subsequent to the second alarm "B" may be a new user designated alarm signal. In contrast, the claimed invention includes "...each successive activation of the snooze mechanism results in a new user designated alarm signal." Claim 2. As such, the alarm signals as included in the claimed invention are not limited to one alarm signal as in Guyett or a first alarm "A" and a second alarm "B" as in Arai, but instead, each successive activation of the snooze mechanism results in a new user designated alarm signal. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Office's rejection be withdrawn.

With respect to claim 7, Applicants respectfully submit that the combined references fail to teach or suggest a time system for designating a plurality of predetermined times. Specifically, Guyett does not teach that the user may designate a time interval. Furthermore, the rotary bezel in Arai allows for the setting of only one time interval. Abstract. In contrast, the claimed invention includes "...a time system for designating a plurality of predetermined times." Claim 7. As such, the time system as included in the claimed invention does not preclude the setting of a time interval as in Guyett or simply allow for the setting of a single time period as does the rotary bezel in Arai, but instead allows the user to designate a plurality of predetermined times. For the above stated reasons, the time system as included in the claimed invention is not equivalent to the rotary bezel in Arai. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Office to withdraw the rejection.

With respect to claim 12, Applicants respectfully submit that the combined references fail to teach or suggest that each successive activation of the snooze mechanism results in a new alarm signal having a higher user designated volume level. Instead, in Guyett the volume level is the same every time the alarm sounds. Similarly, as argued above, Arai teaches that alarm "B" is sounded in the form of a buzzer sound larger than the melody sound in alarm "A." Col. 2, lines 54-56. However, Arai never teaches the volumes of each successive alarm are user definable. Furthermore, Arai also does not teach a volume level higher than that of second alarm "B." In contrast, the claimed invention includes "...each successive activation of the snooze mechanism results in a new alarm signal having a higher user designated volume level." Claim 12. As such, the alarm signals as included in the claimed invention are not limited to a single alarm volume as in Guyett or a first volume and a second larger volume as in Arai, but instead, each successive

activation of the snooze mechanism results in a new alarm signal having a higher user designated volume level. Furthermore, in contrast to the cited references, each new user alarm volume is user designated. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Office's rejection be withdrawn.

With respect to the Office's other arguments regarding dependent claims, Applicants herein incorporate the arguments presented above with respect to independent claims 1, 11 and 15 from which the claims depend. Since the cited art does not teach each and every feature of the claimed invention, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

**B. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 8, 9, 13, 14 AND 19 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) OVER ARAI IN VIEW OF GUYETT AND FURTHER IN VIEW OF THORGERSEN**

With regard to the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection over Arai in view of Guyett and further in view of Thorgersen, Applicants submit that the combined features of the cited art fail to teach each and every feature of the claimed invention. For example, with respect to claims 13 and 19, as argued above with respect to claim 7, the cited references fail to teach or suggest a time system for designating a plurality of predetermined times. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of this rejection.

With respect to claims 8, 13, and 19, Applicants respectfully submit that, contrary to the argument of the Office, Thorgersen, fails to teach or suggest a motion detection system for allowing the user to designate a motion detection period, wherein an alarm function of the alarm clock is disabled if no motion is detected proximate the alarm clock during the motion detection period. In contrast, Thorgersen teaches that an alarm sounding mechanism is disabled for a period of time if motion is detected. Abstract. Nowhere does Thorgersen teach or suggest that an alarm function is disabled if no motion is detected during a set period of time. In contrast, the

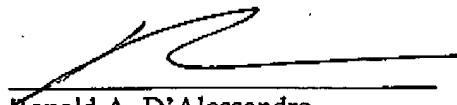
claimed invention includes "...a motion detection system for allowing the user to designate a motion detection period, wherein an alarm function of the alarm clock is disabled if no motion is detected proximate the alarm clock during the motion detection period." Claim 8. As such, the motion detection system as included in the claimed invention does not disable a sounding mechanism if motion is detected as in Thorgersen, but instead, the alarm function of the alarm clock is disabled if no motion is detected proximate the alarm clock during the motion detection period. Neither Arai nor Guyett cure this deficiency. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Office withdraw its rejection.

With regard to the Office's other arguments regarding dependent claims, Applicants submit that all dependant claims are allowable based on their own distinct features. However, for brevity, Applicants will forego addressing each of these rejections individually, but reserve their right to do so should it become necessary.

**IV. CONCLUSION**

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner require anything further to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald A. D'Alessandro  
Reg. No.: 42,456

Date: 1/10/05  
Hoffman, Warnick & D'Alessandro LLC  
Three E-Comm Square  
Albany, New York 12207  
(518) 449-0044  
(518) 449-0047 (fax)